



September 2012



Volume 1, issue 2

A newsletter for the Veterans, their families of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community.

Arizona Art Alliance Honoring Our Veterans

Honoring our veterans – artwork by Arizona military veterans on display at Arizona Art Alliance Gallery

Scottsdale Pavilions at Talking Stick Nov. 1 – 25

SCOTTSDALE – The Arizona Art Alliance and the Eternal Freedom Foundation of America, (EFFA) pay tribute to Arizona Military Veterans by hosting an art exhibit of Veterans' Artwork at the Art Alliance Fine Art Gallery, (Scottsdale Pavilions at Talking Stick, 9011 E. Indian Bend, Suite E, Scottsdale, 85250) November 1 to 25. The 6,000 square foot gallery will host exhibits featuring art created by Veteran artists called "Honoring Our Veterans" and a second exhibit featuring the work of Art Alliance juried artists called "America-What a Great Country!" Both will offer examples of art to reflect upon the freedoms Americans hold so dear. Also featured will be the EFFA sponsored traveling exhibit "Remember our Fallen".

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit art organization comprised of over 4,000 artists from 32 Arizona-based art groups. Founded by local artists in 2000, the Arizona Art Alliance is committed to the promotion and appreciation of fine art and the enrichment that art brings to the community. The Eternal Freedom Foundation of America is dedicated to acknowledging the sacrifices of our American military veterans. EFFA's mission is to assist those who, during active duty, have sustained physical and psychological wounds to achieve maximum fulfillment and joy in life through restoration of mind, body and soul. For additional information, please contact John Fontana, 602 369-2854 or info@azartalliance.com.

"In addition to the incredibly moving art work that will be displayed, we will announce the addition of a new Veterans outreach program addressing the issues of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)," Fontana explained.

The North Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce will lead a formal ribbon cutting ceremony November 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. Among the dignitaries in attendance: Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, President Diane Enos of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale City Councilmember Bob Littlefield, the Honor Guard from Luke Air Force Base, and American Legion Riders of Post 29.

The Exhibition is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be an Artist Reception November 10 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Inside this issue:

VA's Diabetes Prevention Tool	2
V.A. counts 1 million claims processed	4
Vietnam Veterans Proclamation	6

Armed Forces Day at the AZ. Sate Fair

On Friday, Oct. 19, the Arizona State Fair is honoring America's active duty, reservists, veterans, and retired military personnel and their families by offering FREE admission to the Fair.

Get Your Arizona State Fair Armed Forces Day Tickets In Advance

Go to: <http://www.vettix.org/signup.php> and join Veterans Ticket Foundation.

All Active Duty Military and Honorably discharged Veterans, reservists and retired military personnel qualify.

Once verified, you can request the tickets.

OR

You may get your tickets at Encanto admission gate, located on the NE corner of the Fairgrounds. Military ID required. for Oct. 19

VA Offers a New Tool to Help Veterans Prevent Diabetes

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the implementation of a pilot version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a program being promoted nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing the number of Veterans who develop diabetes.

“The Diabetes Prevention Program will provide Veterans with another tool to help them lead healthier, fuller lives, reducing their risk for diabetes,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The DPP was a major multi-center clinical research study aimed at discovering whether modest weight loss through dietary change and increased physical activity or treatment with the oral diabetes drug metformin could prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes.

The study enrolled participants who were prediabetic— overweight and with blood glucose (blood sugar) levels higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. Results showed those who lost a modest amount of weight through dietary changes and increased physical activity sharply reduced their chances of developing diabetes.

“Approximately 24 percent of Veterans have Type 2 diabetes,” said Dr. Linda Kinsinger, VA's chief consultant for preventive medicine. “We've monitored the DPP's results and we feel that it could be another tool to make a difference for Veterans.”

Continued on pg. 3



How Can eBenefits Assist Me?

You can apply for Compensation, Pension, Education, Burial and Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Benefits

Through VA's pilot DPP, which will be offered on a strictly voluntary basis, some Veterans who are at risk for, but not diagnosed with, diabetes will attend a series of group sessions and will be given predetermined weight loss and physical activity goals. Research has shown that, while many Veterans benefit by establishing their own health goals, others show positive improvement working towards goals determined by the program. Other Veterans at risk for diabetes will receive weight management care through MOVE! - VA's current weight management program. The program targets a broad range of patients who are obese or overweight with obesity-related conditions, whereas the DPP specifically targets those obese individuals who have laboratory evidence of prediabetes.

Because VA is eager to try new approaches to promoting health and preventing disease, it is implementing a pilot VA version of the DPP. A limited number of Veterans with prediabetes will be able to participate in this pilot clinical program at the medical centers in Minneapolis, Baltimore, and Greater Los Angeles with VA Ann Arbor serving as the coordinating center. For more information on this program, contact Jay Shiffler (jay.shiffler@va.gov) at the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. To learn more about the VA's prevention program, visit <http://www.prevention.va.gov/index.asp>.

VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. With a health care budget of more than \$50 billion, VA expects to provide care to 6.1 million patients supporting 920,000 hospitalizations and nearly 80 million outpatient visits this year. VA's health care network includes 152 major medical centers and more than 800 community based outpatient clinics.

American Indians in the U.S. Military: Historical Highlights

Some highlights of the experience of American Indians in our Nation's military follow:

Early Wars (before WW I):

During the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War (both for the Union and Confederacy), scouting skills of American Indian soldiers were exploited.

In 1866, the Indian Scouts were established by the U.S. Army; one year later, 474 Indians served. The Scouts accompanied Gen. Pershing to Mexico in pursuit of Poncho Villa in 1916. The Indian Scouts were an integral part of the Army until 1947.

American Indian soldiers accompanied Teddy Roosevelt to Cuba as Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War.

In the early war period, 16 American Indians were awarded the military's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The information on American Indians in the military comes from a series of reports from the Department of Defense in honor of American Indian Heritage month. These reports can be found using the following link:
<http://www.dod.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/>.

VA Completes Over 1 Million Compensation Claims in 2012

Production at Historic Levels as Veterans Benefits Administration Transforms Claims Process

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which oversees the delivery of disability compensation and other benefits to the nation's Veterans, processed over one million disability claims during fiscal year 2012, marking the third year in row VBA claims processors have exceeded the one million mark.

“We have made great strides, but we realize much work remains to be done to better serve Veterans,” said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “Too many Veterans still wait too long. That’s unacceptable, and that is why VA has begun implementing a paperless, digital disability claims system— a lasting solution that will transform how we operate and eliminate the claims backlog.”

In August, VA had its most productive claims processing period in its history, completing a record 107,462 claims and surpassing the previous monthly record of 103,296 set in 2010. This high level of production is accompanied by an increase in the overall accuracy of rating decisions, which has risen from 83 to 86 percent since September 2011, as determined by VA’s national quality assurance program.

While claims production is at historic highs, incoming disability claims have increased nearly 50 percent since 2008, outpacing VA’s current claims processing capacity.

“Our employees are working very hard to sustain this level of production,” said Hickey. “This is a testament to their dedication to meeting the increasing needs of our Veterans.”

VA’s goal is to process all disability claims within 125 days, at a 98 percent accuracy level, and eliminate the claims backlog in 2015.

This year, VBA is beginning a nationwide organizational transformation to increase its claims decision output by retooling procedures and deploying paperless data systems that will speed claims processing and improve quality. All 56 VBA regional offices will be operating under the new organizational model by the end of 2013.

Confidential Help For Veterans and Their Families



“I AM A VETERAN.
Calling the confidential Veterans
Crisis Line can help. I know.”

SAVE THE DATE!

SRPMIC Veterans Representative Office



Serving in gratitude the Veterans of the
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

- Veterans Town Hall Meeting -
Friday, November 16, 2012
Lehi Community Building
5pm Dinner
6pm Meeting

All SRPMIC Veterans and their families are in-
vited and encouraged to attend.

Further information coming, for questions please
call Pacer at 480-362-7490



COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Barack Obama", is written over a horizontal line.

2nd Annual Dinner In Honor of Arizona Vietnam Veterans



To Arizona Vietnam Veterans, families & friends

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Arizona Military Museum in conjunction with the Department of Defense 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War is proud to host the 2nd Annual *DINNER IN HONOR OF ARIZONA VIETNAM VETERANS* at *Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino in Chandler, Arizona on October 20, 2012*. We are honored to have as Special Guest Speaker, Lieutenant General Claude M. Kick-

lighter, USA (Ret.), Director of the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War project.

AS WE DID LAST YEAR, WE PRESENT THIS EVENT AND DINNER TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF ARIZONA'S VIETNAM VETERANS. Our intent is that this event be part of the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War activities whose first stated objective is:

To thank and honor veterans who served in the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

The affair will be a special experience including a Vietnamese Color Guard, a wonderful dinner, good music, some short speeches, some videos, TAPS, and a special presentation to Vietnam veterans. It is open to those who desire to honor Vietnam veterans. Business attire/casual or Army Class A or service equivalent is appropriate. We look forward to seeing many Vietnam veterans, their families and friends.

The dinner cost is \$40.00 per person. Unfortunately, the hotel can only accommodate 400 attendees, so we need your RSVP registration and check ASAP to confirm your attendance at this wonderful experience. Wild Horse Pass Hotel rooms are set aside for your convenience at only \$99.00 per night, particularly if you're travelling from outside the Phoenix area. Just call the hotel for room reservations at 1-800-946-4452. For other questions call 520-868-6777.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community—Veterans Representative Office

E. Pacer Reina
Veterans Representative

Suite 300, Building A, Two Waters
10005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256

Office Phone: 480.362.7490
Mobile Phone: 480.352.7403
Fax: 480.362.7593

Email: edward.reina@srpmic-nsn.gov

VISIT THE SRPMIC VETERANS AFFAIRS WEBSITE:

<http://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/community/veterans/>